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Letter dated 3 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith, in my capacity as Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chair of the Summit of the Arab League, and on behalf of the representatives of the States members of the Arab League, resolution No. 721, adopted at the twenty-ninth ordinary session of the Council of the Arab League meeting at the summit level, held on 15 April 2018, with regard to Iranian intervention in the internal affairs of Arab States to destabilize the entire region (see annex). The resolution demands that Iran withdraw its militias and armed groups from all Arab countries and stop supporting terrorist organizations and militias in the Arab world, especially in Syria and Yemen.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States

The Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level,

Having considered:

- The note of the Secretariat,
- The report of the Secretary-General on joint Arab action,
- The recommendation made by the group charged with following up on the implementation of resolutions and commitments at the ministerial level at its meeting in Riyadh on 12 April 2018,
- The statement issued by the eighth meeting of the quadripartite Arab ministerial committee tasked with following up on the crisis with Iran and means of responding to Iran's interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, held in Riyadh on 12 April 2018,

Reaffirming the statements and resolutions adopted by the Council at the summit level, the most recent of which was resolution 688 (28th ordinary session) adopted in Amman on 29 March 2017, and the statements and resolutions adopted by the Council at the ministerial level at its previous ordinary sessions in this regard, the most recent of which was resolution 8250 (149th ordinary session) dated 7 March 2017; and reaffirming resolution 8218 adopted at its extraordinary session of 19 November 2017 on "Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States",

Having heard the statements made by the heads of delegations and the Secretary-General,

Decides

1. To emphasize that cooperative relations between the Arab States and the Islamic Republic of Iran must be based on the principles of good-neighbourly relations and refraining from the use or threat of force; denounce Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, as that is a violation of the norms of international law and the principles of good-neighbourly relations and State sovereignty; and call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to refrain from taking provocative actions that undermine confidence-building and threaten security and stability in the region;

2. To condemn strongly the continued firing by Iranian-affiliated Houthi terrorist militias of Iranian-made ballistic missiles from Yemeni territory at Saudi Arabia, including at the capital Riyadh and at other Saudi Arabian cities, and to consider that action to be a blatant act of aggression against Saudi Arabia and a threat to Arab national security; and to reaffirm the legitimate right of Saudi Arabia to defend its territory pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and to support the measures that it takes, within the framework of international law, in response to Iranian violations;

3. To denounce and condemn ongoing interference in the internal affairs of Bahrain by Iran, which supports terrorism, trains terrorists, smuggles weapons and explosives, and incites sectarian strife; continues to make statements at various levels aimed at undermining security, order and stability; and has established terrorist groups in Bahrain that are funded and trained by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and

the Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq Brigades and Hizbullah terrorist organizations that are its branches, as such conduct is contrary to the principles of good neighbourliness and non-interference in internal affairs set out in the Charter of the United Nations and prescribed by international law; and to support all measures taken by Bahrain to counter terrorism and terrorist groups, with a view to safeguarding its security and stability;

4. To commend the efforts of the security agencies of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, which have succeeded in thwarting many terrorist plots and apprehending the members of the terrorist groups who were meant to carry out those plots and are supported by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the terrorist Hizbullah of Lebanon;

5. To condemn the policy of the Government of Iran and its ongoing interference in Arab affairs, which only fuels sectarian and religious conflicts; underscore that it must refrain from supporting groups that fan such conflicts, particularly in the Arab States of the Gulf; call on it to halt its support for and funding of militias and armed parties in Arab countries, including, in particular, its interventions in Yemen and its support for and arming of those militias that are loyal to it and hostile to the legitimate Government of Yemen; and to cease using Yemen as platform from which to launch missiles at Yemen's neighbours and threaten maritime navigation in the Bab al-Mandab Straits and the Red Sea, as such conduct has a detrimental effect on the security and stability of Yemen and its neighbouring States, as well as the entire region, and constitutes a clear violation of Security Council resolution 2216 (2015);

6. To support fully all the steps taken by the State of Kuwait against the terrorist cell known as the "Abdali cell"; stress the importance of the security and stability of the State of Kuwait; and reject Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, which continues despite the efforts made by the State of Kuwait with its fellow members of the Cooperation Council of the Arab States of the Gulf to create channels of dialogue with Iran with a view to strengthening security and stability in the region;

7. To hold the terrorist Hizbullah of Lebanon, which is a partner in the Government of that country, responsible for supporting terrorism and terrorist groups in Arab States by providing them with advanced weapons and ballistic missiles, and to reiterate that it must stop spreading extremism and sectarianism, desist from interfering in the internal affairs of States and refrain from providing any support for terrorism or terrorists in the surrounding region;

8. To ban Iranian-funded satellite channels that broadcast from Arab satellites because they threaten Arab national security by inciting sectarian, religious and racial strife, and to request the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of this decision with the relevant parties;

9. To condemn and deplore the inflammatory and hostile statements that Iranian officials continue to make against Arab States, and to call on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cease making hostile statements or taking provocative actions and to halt media campaigns against Arab States, as such conduct is blatant interference in the internal affairs of those States;

10. To stress the importance of monitoring Iranian activities and attempts to undermine the security and stability of States in the region, reduce Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States, and in particular in the case of Yemen, which is a Gulf-wide matter that concerns the national security of the States of the Gulf and of the Arab region as a whole;

11. To step up diplomatic efforts among Arab States that are members of regional and international organizations to highlight the practices of the Iranian regime, its support for violence, sectarianism and terrorism, and the threat it poses to regional and international security.

12. To work to design campaigns conducted via various media to expose the true militant face of the Iranian regime, the continued pursuit by that regime of a hostile and expansionist foreign policy, and its ongoing support for sectarianism, extremism and terrorism;

13. To condemn Iran's ongoing occupation of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates (Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa); and to express its support for all peaceful means and measures chosen by the United Arab Emirates to restore its sovereignty over the islands which, according to international law, are under occupation;

14. To underline the need for Iran to comply with Security Council resolution 2231 (2015); the need for effective mechanisms to put in place to verify compliance with the relevant agreement, conduct inspections and carry out oversight functions; the need for sanctions to be promptly and effectively reimposed should Iran fail to fulfil its obligations under the agreement; and the importance of Iran becoming a party to all regional treaties on nuclear safety and environmental protection;

15. To denounce Iran's intervention in the Syrian crisis, which has had serious repercussions for the future of Syria and its sovereignty, security, stability, national unity and territorial integrity, and to emphasize that such intervention is detrimental to efforts to resolve the Syrian crisis through peaceful means in accordance with the first Geneva conference;

16. To call upon Iran to remove its affiliated militias and armed personnel from all Arab States, and to stop supporting terrorist organizations and militias in the Arab States, particularly in Syria and Yemen;

17. To stress that the Arab States should continue to provide the League secretariat with periodic reports on Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States;

18. To request the Secretary-General to continue coordinating with the Foreign Ministers of the quadripartite Arab committee composed of the United Arab Emirates (Chair), Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, with a view to continuing to develop an Arab action plan to respond to Iranian interventions in the Arab region; and mobilizing international support for Arab opposition to Iran's interventions;

19. To continue to keep relevant agencies of the United Nations informed of Iranian violations of Security Council resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015), which pose a grave threat to Arab national security;

20. To continue to include an item entitled "Iranian intervention in the internal affairs of Arab States" on Arab platforms of cooperation with international and regional groupings;

21. To request the relevant organs of the United Nations to include the question of Iranian interventions in the internal affairs of Arab States on their respective agendas, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, Article 2, paragraph 7, which prohibits interference in the internal affairs of States;

22. To request the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of the present resolution and report to the Council at its next ordinary session.

(Summit resolution 721 — 29th ordinary session — third meeting — 15 April 2018)

– The Republic of Iraq expresses its reservations to paragraphs 3, 4 and 7 of the draft resolution.

– Lebanon expresses its reservations to paragraphs 3, 4 and 7 of the resolution on Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Arab States.

The Lebanese Republic is opposed to the reference to Hizbullah, which is described as a terrorist organization, and the reference to the fact that it is part of the Government.

This designation is unacceptable because it is not sanctioned by the United Nations and is contrary to the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, particularly in view of the distinction made between resistance and terrorism. Hizbullah is a key player in Lebanon and represents a large number of Lebanese. It also has substantial representation in Parliament, the ministries and the constitutional institutions of Lebanon. Lebanon supports the other paragraphs of the resolution, although some of them infringe on the policy of disassociation adopted by the Lebanese Government. It condemns any intervention in the internal affairs of Arab States. It reiterates the policy of disassociation that the Lebanese Government has adopted and has requested that all references to Hizbullah should be deleted, so that we might be able to endorse the entire resolution without any reservations.